

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended):                      An apparatus for filtering a fluid comprising a pressure vessel having a feed connection and a filtrate connection, and at least one capillary filtration membrane module, said membrane module having a length and comprising an inlet coupled with the feed connection, an outlet coupled with the filtrate connection, and a filter housing defining a membrane compartment accommodating a bundle of capillary filtration membranes, each filtration membrane having two open ends to receive the fluid in bi-directional flow, and said capillary filtration membranes being cased at both ends of the membrane module in membrane holders, wherein at least one of the membrane modules comprises a permeate discharge compartment and at least one feed-through conduit in fluid communication with said permeate discharge compartment, said conduit comprising a pipe located inside the membrane compartment and extending substantially in the longitudinal direction throughout the length of the membrane module, wherein walls of said feed-through conduit comprise an impermeable material, and wherein a fluid filtration flow enters both said open ends of said filtration membranes and occurs radially from inside each capillary filtration membrane to outside each said capillary filtration membrane.

Claim 2 CANCELLED

Claim 3 (currently amended):        A filtering apparatus according to claim 1 additionally comprising a second feed-through conduit annularly surrounding the membrane compartment.

Claim 4 (original):    A filtering apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of membrane modules in fluid serial connection.

Claim 5 (currently amended):        A filtering apparatus according to claim 3 wherein walls of the second annular feed-through conduit are formed by the filter housing and a wall of the pressure vessel.

Claim 6 (original):    A filtering apparatus according to claim 5 additionally comprising spacers between the wall of the pressure vessel and the filter housing.

Claim 7 (original):    A filtering apparatus according to claim 1 wherein walls of said feed-through conduit comprise a rigid material with a smooth surface.

Claim 8 (new):        An apparatus for filtering a fluid comprising a pressure vessel having a feed connection and a filtrate connection, and at least one capillary filtration membrane module, said membrane module having a length and comprising an inlet coupled with the feed connection, an outlet coupled with the filtrate connection, and a filter housing defining a

membrane compartment accommodating a bundle of capillary filtration membranes, each filtration membrane having two open ends to receive the fluid in bi-directional flow, and said capillary filtration membranes being cased at both ends of the membrane module in membrane holders, wherein at least one of the membrane modules comprises an annular feed-through conduit extending substantially in the longitudinal direction throughout the length of the membrane module annularly surrounding the membrane compartment, wherein walls of said feed-through conduit comprise an impermeable material, and wherein a fluid filtration flow enters both said open ends of said filtration membranes and occurs radially from inside each capillary filtration membrane to outside each said capillary filtration membrane.

Claim 9 (new):        A filtering apparatus according to claim 8 wherein walls of the annular feed-through conduit are formed by the filter housing and a wall of the pressure vessel.

Claim 10 (new):       A filtering apparatus according to claim 8 comprising a plurality of membrane modules in fluid serial connection.

Claim 11 (new):       A filtering apparatus according to claim 9 additionally comprising spacers between the wall of the pressure vessel and the filter housing.